

IN THE CLAIMS

Sub 1
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1. (Currently amended) Voice control system for a ~~technical~~ consumer electronics device, ~~the device being connected to one or more appliances, with one or more external loudspeakers, using a microphone array, the voice control system~~ comprising

~~a microphone array with a plurality of microphones distributed over said device and said one or more appliances, for converting a detected signal to electrical signals, wherein one or more microphones are integrated in said external loudspeakers;~~

~~a central signal processing unit being connected to the plurality of microphones, the signal processing unit scaling or for processing the electrical output signals of said microphone array such that background signals are reduced by a spatial separation of the voice signal and the background signals according to the respective position of the microphones relative to the user, the respective position being given by different propagation delays; and~~

~~a central speech recognition unit for converting the output electrical signals from said microphone array signal processing unit into operational commands for the consumer electronics device.~~

2. (Previously amended) System according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more appliances are connected via a bi-directional network.

3. (Previously amended) System according to Claim 2, wherein the bi-directional network is based on an IEEE 1394 bus.

4. (Currently amended) System according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~technical device is~~ a consumer electronics ~~reproduction device, in particular is~~ a television set, ~~and the appliances are external loudspeakers or a video recorder.~~

5. (Newly Added) System according to claim 1, wherein all microphones are connected to the same signal processing unit.

6. (Newly Added) System according to claim 1, wherein the one or more external loudspeakers are connected via a radio network.